

## **Resolution (ID # 3790)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Northbrook, County of Cook and State of Illinois, THAT:

### **A Resolution of the Village of Northbrook Expressing Concern over the Design Alternatives Proposed in the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor Draft Environmental Assessment Released October 6, 2016**

is hereby adopted, as follows:

The Village of Northbrook (the "Village") is a home rule municipality in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation ("WisDOT") and the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT"), in partnership with Amtrak, are proposing to increase passenger rail service between Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the existing Amtrak *Hiawatha Service* and construction of infrastructure improvements (the "Project") to support the increase in frequencies.

The Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor Draft Environmental Assessment (the "EA") was released October 6, 2016 and requires further environmental documentation by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration, which is the lead federal agency for the Project, prior to their consideration of a Finding of No Significant Impact (the "FONSI"), making the Project eligible for Federal funding.

Construction related to the Project is proposed along two rail lines in or immediately adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the Village that run in close proximity to commercial and residential areas.

The Project includes six new proposed *Hiawatha Service* trips occurring during off-peak capacity times which adversely impacts freight traffic operating in the Project area and results in significant construction in the Village attributed to the mitigation of the *Hiawatha Service* impacts on existing freight operations.

The EA carries forward two alternatives from a total of six alternatives that were reviewed in conjunction with the EA for a portion of railroad right-of-way along the Canadian Pacific and Union Pacific Subdivision rail lines (the "A-20") located south of Techny Road in the Village, across the Willow Road bridge and Shermer Road bridge (the site of a fatal train derailment in 2012) and terminating north of West Lake Avenue in Glenview.

The Village has reviewed the EA, consulted with neighboring municipalities and considered the impacts on the Village of the proposed Project and Design Alternatives carried forward in the EA.

The Village has significant concerns relating to the need for the proposed Project, the resulting environmental health and safety impacts of the proposed Project on the residents of the Village and the favored alternatives identified in the EA and specifically with the potential negative impacts of traffic flow on Techny Road (including emergency services traffic) as well as noise, vibration and air quality impacts on residents and businesses living and working in close proximity to A-20.

The EA provides no supporting documentation on air quality, noise and other health and safety impacts for those individuals living or working adjacent to the proposed holding track, prompting the Village's concerns and strong recommendation that more consideration needs to be given to health and human factors and call for the completion of a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and engineering study of the traffic and emergency services impacts of the addition of the A-20 holding track on Techny Road.

The EA fails to identify fiscally responsible, long-range plans which recognize the potential for even more Metra and Amtrak passenger trains and their impact on the infrastructure needs to alleviate future rail congestion issues for the entire region.

It is the conclusion of the corporate authorities that the EA has not presented clear and convincing evidence for the need to expand the *Hiawatha Service* as proposed in the Project, does not fully satisfy the long range purpose of the Project and would have an adverse impact on the character of the adjacent residential neighborhoods and commercial developments and on the public health, safety and welfare of its residents living near or adjacent to said area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the President and Village Board of the Village of Northbrook, Cook County, Illinois as follows:

**Section 1:** That, for the reasons set forth herein, the President and Village Board of the Village of Northbrook, Cook County, Illinois, do hereby raise considerable concerns about the Project and protest the findings of the draft EA which lack specific detailed analysis and the necessary evidence for consideration of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

**Section 2:** That the Village Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to send copies of this Resolution to WisDOT, IDOT, and the Federal Railway Administration, as well as a formal letter to each detailing the objections, along with requests for additional information and suggested remedies which could resolve the concerns and a formal request to extend the EA comment period an additional sixty (60) days to permit the proper review of requested additional data.

**Section 3:** That the President and Village Manager are hereby directed to contact representatives of WisDOT, IDOT, Amtrak, Metra and Quandel Consultants, LLC and request a meeting along with the City of Lake Forest and Villages of Glenview, Deerfield and Bannockburn to discuss the EA and alternative designs and infrastructure improvements that support the regional effort to enhance passenger rail service.

Scheduled: 11/15/16

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Village President

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Village Clerk